

Williams was an extraordinary leader, an exemplary student, and a highly respected member of the San Antonio community. He inspired those that he worked with, won the devotion of his friends, and earned the gratitude of his community. I ask my colleagues assembled here to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Jamon Charles Williams.

SUPPORTING MORE EQUITABLE HIGHWAY FUNDING PROPOSALS

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the Congress to an issue of inequity facing my home State, the State of Tennessee. This inequity is the current funding formula of the Federal highway trust fund.

As most of you know, there are a number of States in the Union which are called donor States. These States pay into the highway trust fund through various taxes, but receive less money than they remit to the Federal Government. For example, based on the most recent Federal Highway Administration figures, the State of Tennessee receives approximately 82 cents for every \$1 contributed to the fund.

However, there are a number of States which receive well over \$1.50 for each \$1 they remit to the trust fund. This is unfair. Tennessee's transportation needs, in many cases, are just as critical as those States which receive a disproportionate lion's share of the trust fund proceeds.

There are a number of proposals seeking to reach a more equitable solution to this funding disparity, and I urge all Members of this body, especially those of us in the donor States, to support reasonable changes in the funding formula to ensure that each State's transportation needs receive adequate funding.

CONFLICT OVER THE WESTERN SAHARA

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General of the United Nations recently asked former Secretary of State, James A. Baker III, to make a fresh assessment of the situation regarding the long-standing conflict over the Western Sahara.

As my colleagues may know, the United Nations have been attempting to resolve conflicts which have gone on over more than 20 years between the Sahrawi Republic and the government of Morocco. The United Nations currently maintains a peacekeeping force in this region, and so far a resumption of armed conflict has been avoided.

Mr. Baker's recently completed visit to this region has brought renewed hope that a bridge to resolving the current impasse might be forthcoming.

His Excellency the Honorable Mohamed Abdelaziz, President of the Sahrawi Republic and Chairman of the Polisario Front, has

made a noble gesture of goodwill toward the peace process by initiating the release of 85 Moroccan prisoners of war. His Excellency extended his hand of friendship, a gesture which I trust is appreciated and reciprocated by our friends in Morocco.

Mr. Speaker, I am inserting into the RECORD a letter which I recently sent to President Abdelaziz congratulating him on his gesture of goodwill toward the peace process in Western Sahara.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 6, 1997.

His Excellency the Honorable MOHAMED ABDELAZIZ, President of Sahrawi Republic, Chairman of Polisario Front, Washington, DC.

Your Excellency: I send you my personal greetings and best wishes. My office had the pleasure of being briefed by your Ambassador Said on your recent visit with Mr. James A. Baker, representing the Secretary General of the United Nations.

I have been informed of your extraordinary gesture of goodwill towards the process of peace in Western Sahara. I am referring to your decision to release some 85 Moroccan prisoners of war being held by your army. This is a most generous gesture and expression of your commitment to the current efforts to bring peace to your region.

Your actions speak well for the prospects of cooperation and consultation in Western Sahara. I trust that your generosity and vision will be reciprocated by Morocco and that Mr. Baker can be an instrument of reconciliation and resolution for the problems which have plagued your people for too many years.

Your gesture is deeply appreciated and understood.

Sincerely,

ESTEBAN E. TORRES,
Member of Congress.

A YEAR OF SUCCESS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, later this month on May 21, the Republic of China on Taiwan will mark a historic milestone. It will be the 1-year anniversary of President Lee Teng-hui's inauguration as China's first democratically elected President. President Lee's election was the culmination of a 10-year process of democratization and economic reforms which transformed the Republic of China into an economic powerhouse and a model for other emerging democracies in the world.

It was just a year ago that the People's Republic of China was launching missiles across the Taiwan Strait in the vicinity of Taiwan's main ports. This crude attempt to intimidate Taiwan's 21 million people, as they prepared themselves to elect their national leadership and, failed miserably. That failure for the PRC was great triumph for Taiwan. President Lee was overwhelmingly elected with 54 percent of the vote. In doing so, the people of Taiwan demonstrated their commitment and resolve to the democratic values we all share. I was proud to organize the congressional delegation which traveled to Taipei last year to witness President Lee's swearing in. I organized

that trip because I respect and admire what President Lee has accomplished, and I am proud to call him my friend.

The past 12 months of President Lee's leadership has been a time of continued achievement and success for Taiwan. The Republic of China remains the United States seventh largest trading partner and best ally in Asia. In spite of the PRC's efforts to undermine Taiwan's free market, Taiwan's stock market has soared 36 percent and official reserves in Taiwan now exceed \$90 billion. All of these achievements are a testament to the successful policies of President Lee and his government.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to point out that we are also approaching the first anniversary of the appointment of John Chang as the Republic of China's Foreign Minister. Mr. Chang has a long and illustrious career as a diplomat, having served previously as Minister of Overseas Chinese and as head of the North American Division. I and many of my colleagues know about Mr. Chang's work and leadership, and I would like to take this opportunity to salute his success in keeping our bilateral relationship, while not official, for now, as warm and strong as ever.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this month also marks the anniversary of Mr. Jason Hu's first year as the representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office [TECRO]. TECRO serves as the ROC's unofficial embassy here in Washington. Ambassador Hu previously served as President Lee's spokesman, and was a vital part of President Lee's team during the election. Since arriving in Washington, Ambassador Hu has developed many warm relationships with Members of this body and has worked tirelessly to insure United States-Republic of China relations continue to improve.

Mr. Speaker, the ROC is a beacon of democracy in a region of the world too often shrouded in the darkness of oppression and tyranny. The ROC is our friend and partner, and Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for stopping in Taiwan during your recent trip to Asia. And I want to thank you for speaking for me when you remarked that the United States should defend Taiwan if attacked. Once again, congratulations President Lee, Minister Chang and Ambassador Hu on a successful year of remarkable accomplishments.

ELIMINATING NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS RELATING TO CANCELLATIONS OF REMOVAL AND SUSPENSION OF DEPORTATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to eliminate the limits relating to cancellations of removal and suspensions of deportation.

The new immigration law requires individuals applying for suspension of deportation—now changed to cancellation of removal—to establish good moral character, 10 years of continuous presence in the United States, and exceptional and extreme hardship to a spouse